

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 SSO-00 ISO-00 PA-02
H-02 SSM-05 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 INRE-00 SIG-03
/071 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----091364 120241Z /75

O 120037Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
JCS WASHDC 0000

CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
ICA
USCINCEUR
DOD

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 11, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 11. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS TOM RESTON.

Q. IF WE COULD MOVE ON TO LIBYA, I THINK YOU MIGHT BE
FAMILIAR WITH THE UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL'S STORY AND
I WONDER IF YOU COULD SAY WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT
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HAS NOW FINALLY DECIDED TO GO TO THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
TO UPGRADE THE PRIORITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE TRUCK SALE TO
LIBYA, THEREBY MAKING IT HARDER FOR LIBYA TO GET ITS
TRUCKS? IF SO, WHY?

A. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT THAT THE EXPORT TO LIBYA AND SEVERAL OTHER
COUNTRIES OF MATERIALS SUCH AS LARGE TRUCKS WHICH MIGHT
HAVE SIGNIFICANT MILITARY USE BE RESTRICTED BY PLACING
THESE ITEMS ON A COMMERCE VALIDATED LICENSE LIST.

Q. WHAT IS THAT COMMERCE VALIDATED?

A. THAT IS JARGON AND I AM JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SEEK A
FURTHER DEFINITION OF IT. IT IS OBVIOUSLY A MECHANISM
FOR RESTRICTING THE SALE OF THESE ITEMS.

Q. THAT IS THE WAY UPI EXPLAINED THAT LIST. IT MAKES
IT HARDER TO SELL THE ITEMS.

A. YES. YOU ASKED ME ALSO WHY WE HAVE DONE THIS. WE
MADE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMERCE DUE TO OUR CONTINUING
CONCERN OVER LIBYA'S SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS
AND LIBYA'S RECENT EFFORT TO UNDERMINE THE GOVERNMENTS
OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED
STATES. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE END USER OF THESE
HEAVY OFF ROAD TRUCK TRACTORS IS THE LIBYAN ARMY AND THAT

THEY ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSPORTING LIBYA'S LARGE INVENTORY OF SOVIET BUILT TANKS.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF THIS INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT WHEN THEY TOOK AN APPROVING VIEW OF THE TRUCK SALE?

A. NO.

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Q. DO YOU KNOW THE NAME OF THE COMPANY AND IF IT INDEED IS A \$56 MILLION SALE?

A. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO CHECK THE NAME OF THE COMPANY AND THE VALUE OF THE SALE.

Q. YOU SAID SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES. WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE IN THE CATEGORY OF LIBYA WHERE WE WOULD LIKE TO RESTRICT SHIPMENT OF EQUIPMENT THAT COULD HAVE MILITARY PURPOSES? IS THERE ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THAT CATEGORY BESIDES LIBYA?

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO DOWN THE LIST.

Q. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE THE GOVERNMENT OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, DOES THAT INCLUDE EGYPT?

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO DOWN THE LIST OF COUNTRIES WHICH LIBYA HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH.

Q. LET ME SEE IF I UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE. IS IT A DEPARTMENT POLICY NOW THAT IF A COUNTRY ASSISTS TERRORISTS THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE TRUCKS THAT COULD HAVE MILITARY USE? IN OTHER WORDS, IF I WERE TO COME UP OUT OF THE BLUE WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY THAT AIDS THE PLO AND TO

WHICH WE SHIP BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THAT AND TRUCKS FOR LIBYA?

A. I THINK WHAT I WANT TO DO HERE IS TO REFER TO THE TESTIMONY WHICH MR. MORRIS DRAPER DELIVERED UPON THE HILL ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO ON OUR QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE HARBORED TERRORISTS.

Q. IT IS NOT MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO TERRORISM THAT DISTURBS YOU IN THIS INSTANCE, IT IS HARBORING TERRORISM?

A. IT IS NOT ONLY HARBORING TERRORISM BUT I REALLY AM NOT PREPARED AT THIS POINT TO GO INTO A BLOW BY BLOW DESCRIPTION OF ALL THE ELEMENTS WHICH GO INTO OUR EFFORTS TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS.

Q. I AM JUST TRYING TO SEE HERE IF THERE IS SOME NEW FORMULA THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO USE BECAUSE I HAVE, FOR INSTANCE, NEVER HEARD THE SECOND CRITERION WHICH YOU GAVE US, WHICH IS WORKING AGAINST FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS. IS THAT A YARDSTICK FOR APPROVING SHIPMENT OF TRUCKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT NOW? IF COUNTRY "A" ISN'T FRIENDLY TO COUNTRY "B" AND COUNTRY "B" IS FRIENDLY TO US, COUNTRY "A" CAN'T GET TRUCKS FROM OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN?

A. I THINK EACH SALE WOULD STAND ON ITS OWN MERITS AND DIFFERENT CONSIDERATIONS WOULD GO INTO DIFFERENT SALES. IT DOES NOT MEAN BECAUSE WE HAVE APPLIED THESE CRITERIA IN THE CASE OF OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT WITH REGARD TO SALE OF THESE TRUCKS TO LIBYA THAT WE WOULD NECESSARILY APPLY THE SAME CRITERIA TO A SALE OF TRUCKS SOMEWHERE IN ASIA OR SOME OTHER CONTINENT.

Q. AT THAT SAME HEARING YOU REFERRED TO MR. DRAPER WAS ASKED ABOUT, AND I DON'T BELIEVE HE GAVE AN ANSWER, ABOUT THE PROPRIETY OF THE UNITED STATES ADMITTING 200 LIBYAN STUDENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER TO THAT, COULD WE HAVE THE OFFICIAL RATIONALE FOR ADMITTING THOSE STUDENTS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING HERE. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT MR. DRAPER PROMISED THE LEGISLATURE THAT HE WOULD
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SEND AN OFFICIAL RATIONALE AND I WILL FIND OUT WHETHER SUCH A RATIONALE HAS BEEN SENT AND IF IT HAS, I WILL TRY TO GET IT TO YOU.

Q. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD GET THE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT YOU ARE RECOMMENDING BE PLACED ON THIS VALIDATED LICENSE LIST.

A. I THINK THAT PROBABLY IS A QUESTION FOR THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Q. NO, BECAUSE YOU ARE THE ONE MAKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. YES, I KNOW, BUT THEY ARE THE ONE MAKING THE COMMERCE VALIDATED LICENSE LIST.

Q. ACCORDING TO THIS UPI STORY, IF THE CONTRACT DOESN'T GO THROUGH, THIS COMPANY MIGHT FAIL. CAN YOU TELL US IF

THE COMPANY MADE ANY EFFORT TO INTERCEDE WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR GAVE ANY ASSURANCES TO TRY TO DISSUADE YOU FROM TAKING THIS VIEW OF THE SALE?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF THIS COMPANY AND I AM UNAWARE AS TO WHETHER THEY HAVE MADE ANY REPRESENTATIONS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE SALE OR THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Q. SINCE YOU ARE TAKING A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, COULD YOU TAKE THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF, OR HAS ANY RESERVATIONS ABOUT LIBYA HAVING CONTRACTED TO BUY -- I THINK IT'S \$5 OR \$6 MILLION WORTH OF IDAHO WHEAT DIRECTLY FROM THE IDAHO FARMERS? AND IN FACT, I THINK THE LIBYANS HAVE SPONSORED UNCLASSIFIED

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A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS OF IDAHOANS, IDAHO FARMERS TO LIBYA.

A. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. I AM NOT CLEAR COMPLETELY, WHETHER YOUR RECOMMENDATION EFFECTIVELY BLOCKS AND CANCELS THAT DEAL OR NOT. WHAT IS REALLY THE STATUS OF IT?

A. THERE, AGAIN, I THINK THE PROPER PEOPLE FOR YOU TO ADDRESS THAT TO ARE THE PEOPLE AT THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, AS TO THE EFFECT OF GETTING ON SUCH A LIST. I HAVE DEALT WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, AND THE REASONS FOR OUR RECOMMENDATION. AS TO HOW AN ACTUAL SALE WOULD BE AFFECTED ONCE YOU GET ON THAT LIST, I THINK THAT IS SOMETHING FOR THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TO DECIDE.

Q. WHAT IS THE INTENTION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION? IS IT TO BLOCK THE SALE?

A. IT IS TO RESTRICT THE EXPORT OF THOSE TRUCKS TO LIBYA. THAT WAS OUR INTENTION.

Q. WHAT DOES "RESTRICT" MEAN? DOES IT MEAN TO CUT BACK THE SALE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT MEANS ACTUAL BLOCKING, OR WHETHER IT MEANS JUST ACTUAL MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT. I JUST AM NOT ENOUGH AWARE OF THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S MECHANISM FOR REGULATION.

Q. ARE YOU GOING TO APPLY THIS DISCIPLINE, THESE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TO OTHER REJECTIONIST STATES IN THE ARAB WORLD?

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A. I THINK I DEALT WITH THAT QUESTION A MOMENT AGO WHEN I SAID THAT THE SALE OF SUCH MATERIAL IS GOVERNED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

Q. ARE YOU PREPARED TO DETAIL NOW, IN WHAT WAY LIBYA SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM?

A. I AM AGAIN GOING TO REFER YOU TO THE STATEMENT AND THE TESTIMONY OF MR. DRAPER BEFORE THE HILL. I REALLY AM NOT UP TO DATE ON THAT.

Q. WHEN YOU SPOKE OF LIBYA'S EFFORTS TO "UNDERMINE FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" THIS UPI STORY MENTIONS THOSE COUNTRIES AS CHAD, THE SUDAN, EGYPT AND TUNISIA. CAN YOU TELL US WHICH COUNTRIES LIBYA IS TRYING TO UNDERMINE?

A. I AM REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO GO DOWN A LAUNDRY LIST OF COUNTRIES.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE ISRAELI PARTIAL AND CONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON?

A. I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON THAT FOR YOU. WE HAVE BEEN TALKING TO THE ISRAELIS. LET ME SAY THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL UP IN NEW YORK DID MEET INFORMALLY, YESTERDAY, AND THERE WILL BE FURTHER CONSULTATIONS TOMORROW. WE ARE PARTICIPATING IN THOSE CONSULTATIONS AND MEETINGS, BUT I REALLY HAVE NOTHING FURTHER FOR YOU.

Q. BUT CAN'T YOU CHARACTERIZE IT? I MEAN, IF YOU ARE HAPPY WITH THIS KIND OF WITHDRAWAL, OR UNHAPPY?

A. REALLY, YOU KNOW, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW FOR YOU
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ON IT.

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